



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 30, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

The federal government's social distancing guidelines to stem the spread of the coronavirus expire today, however, President Trump has indicated he has no intention of extending the measures. During a media briefing yesterday, he explained the guidelines will be "fading out because now the governors are doing it."

In addition, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) told reporters that House Democrats will call for the inclusion of nearly \$1 trillion in the next coronavirus aid package for the hardest hit states and local governments. Meanwhile, Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Tom Carper (D-DE), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI), held a roundtable to discuss the possibility of amending the Standing Rules of the Senate to allow senators to participate and vote remotely during a national crisis.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) relaunched this week with the additional \$320 billion investment, and the Small Business Administration and the Treasury Department gave small business lenders a dedicated time slot of eight hours on Wednesday to submit applications.

Last night, White House Domestic Policy Chief, Joe Grogan, announced his resignation effective May 24. Grogan played a key role in the administration's response to the coronavirus and also served as a member of the White House coronavirus task force.

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Treasury Department, and the Federal Reserve published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [COVID Legislative Tracker](#)
- [COVID State Reopening Tracker](#)
- [Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Restrictions](#)
- [Global COVID-19 Export Controls](#)
- [Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)
- [Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

• **House**

- In a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administrator (SBA) Jovita Carranza, House Financial Services Ranking Member Patrick McHenry (R-NC), along with other Republican members on the committee, requested that the Treasury and SBA provide information regarding businesses that fully repaid their Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and businesses that received PPP loans over \$2 million that were not repaid.
- Representative Denny Heck (D-WA) made a [statement](#) regarding his legislation that provides \$100 billion in rental and utility payment assistance to renters in non-assisted housing.

• **Senate**

- Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI), [sent a letter](#) to the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Treasury urging prioritization for loans of less than \$1 million.
- Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) [released a statement](#) urging Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to reconsider bringing the Senate back next week.

Administration

• Federal Reserve

- The Federal Reserve [announced](#) it is expanding the scope and eligibility for the Main Street Lending Program. The changes include a third loan option, lower minimum size for certain loans, and expanding eligibility of businesses.

• Treasury

- This morning, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin [spoke](#) with his counterparts from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom (U.K.), the European Commission, and Eurogroup about timely and effective actions in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Secretary Mnuchin and Small Business Administrator Jovita Carranza [issued a statement](#) regarding dedicated hours for small lender submissions of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) applications.
- The Treasury released the [interim final rule](#) on Corporate Groups and Non-Bank and Non-Insured Depository Institutions.

• Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released the [Employee Retention Credit FAQs](#).

• Small Business Administration (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, released an updated version of the [Paycheck Protection Program Loans FAQs](#), which added guidance regarding operation date of businesses (Question 38) and review of individual PPP loan files (Question 39).

- In a [tweet](#), Administrator Carranza announced special access to the Paycheck Protection Program for small community lenders with asset sizes less than \$1 billion.
- SBA has [approved](#) 960,000 loans under the second tranche of the Paycheck Protection Program as of 5:00 pm yesterday.

Articles of Interest

- 4/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Federal Reserve Expands Business-Lending Program.](#)"
- 4/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Over 3.8 Million Americans Filed for Jobless Benefits Last Week as States Struggle With Coronavirus Claims Surge.](#)"
- 4/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Coronavirus Prompts Record Drop in Consumer Spending.](#)"
- 4/30 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Virus Relief Loans Meant for Small Firms Capped at \\$20 Million.](#)"
- 4/29 Politico published an article titled, "[As Trump talks rebound, Fed's Powell warns economy's pain will last.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- 76 lawmakers sent a [letter](#) to congressional leaders regarding emergency funding for mental health disorder and addiction treatment providers.
- **House**
 - Reps. Delauro and Doggett sent a [letter](#) to FDA Commissioner Hahn regarding COVID-19 serology tests.
 - Rep. Krishnamoorthi sent a [letter](#) to FDA Commissioner Hahn regarding compliance with subcommittee investigation into policies governing serological testing.
 - Rep. Lynch [introduced](#) a bill to enhance transparency of supplies in the Strategic National Stockpile.
 - Reps. Schrier and Roe [introduce](#) bipartisan bill to increase telehealth opportunities during pandemic.
- **Senate**
 - Sens. Baldwin, Murphy, and Schumer introduced [legislation](#) to federalize medical supply chain, increase national production and create an equitable and transparent process for delivery of necessary supplies.
 - 37 Senators sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and CMS Administrator Verma regarding telehealth reimbursements.
 - Senator Feinstein released a [statement](#) on Senate Majority Leader McConnell's decision to bring the Senate back to normal operations amid the coronavirus pandemic. She also sent Sens. McConnell and Schumer a [letter](#) on the subject.
 - Sen. Durbin sent a [letter](#) to CDC Director Redfield regarding community health workforces to address COVID-19 racial disparities.

Administration

- White House

- The White House released [remarks](#) by President Trump and Vice President Pence in yesterday's roundtable with industry executives on the Plan for Opening up America Again.
- Health and Human Services
 - HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), [awarded](#) \$20 million to increase telehealth access and infrastructure for providers and families to help prevent and respond to COVID-19.
 - HHS Secretary Azar issued a [statement](#) on positive results from NIH's Remdesivir trial.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS issued another round of [sweeping regulatory waivers and rule changes](#) to deliver expanded care to the nation's seniors and provide flexibility to the healthcare system as America reopens. These changes include making it easier for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries to get tested for COVID-19 and continuing CMS's efforts to further expand beneficiaries' access to telehealth services.
- National Institutes of Health
 - Hospitalized patients with advanced COVID-19 and lung involvement who received remdesivir [recovered faster](#) than similar patients who received placebo, according to a preliminary data analysis from a randomized, controlled trial involving 1063 patients, which began on February 21. The trial, sponsored by NIAID, is the first clinical trial launched in the United States to evaluate an experimental treatment for COVID-19.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued [reopening guidance](#) to help facility operators and families properly clean and disinfect spaces. Developed in concert with the White House, the guidance provides step-by-step instructions for public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes.
 - CDC released a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#) titled, "Characteristics and Clinical Outcomes of Adult Patients Hospitalized with COVID-19 — Georgia, March 2020."
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Tests that have been evaluated in an independent validation study performed at the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Cancer Institute (NCI), or by another government agency designated by FDA, and are confirmed by FDA to meet the criteria set forth in the Scope of Authorization.
 - The FDA posted [FAQs on Ventilators](#), including questions and answers related to the Enforcement Policy on Ventilators and Ventilators added to the "Umbrella" EUA, which added to the existing FAQs on Public Availability (Open Sourcing) of Ventilator Software and Design.
 - The FDA posted [FAQs on EUAs for Medical Devices](#) During the COVID-19 Pandemic, including how to submit a request for a new EUA and what happens to authorized devices after the public health emergency is over.

Articles of Interest

- 4/29 CNBC published an article titled, "[WHO is investigating whether coronavirus causes rare inflammatory disease in some kids.](#)"
- 4/29 Politico published an article titled, "['A drug can block this virus': Fauci hails Covid-19 treatment breakthrough.](#)"

- 4/29 Politico published an article titled, "[End of Trump's social distancing policy spurs fears of virus rebound.](#)"
- 4/30 The Associated Press published an article titled, "[Trump predicts 'spectacular' rebound as economy plunges.](#)"
- 4/30 KFF published an article titled, "[COVID-19 in Rural America – Is there cause for concern?](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

- House
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "CARES Act Unemployment Benefits: Highlights from DOL FAQs on Work Search and Job Refusal."

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL released its unemployment insurance weekly claims [report](#). For the week ending in April 25, 3.8 million Americans applied for jobless benefits for the first time. Over the past six weeks, 30 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits.
 - Secretary of Labor Scalia issued a [statement](#) regarding Unemployment Insurance claims.
 - DOL [announced](#) the award of seven Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs), totaling \$30,170,311, to help address the workforce-related impacts of the public health emergency related to the coronavirus pandemic. These awards are funded under the CARES Act which provided \$345 million for DWGs intended to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.
 - DOL [announced](#) that the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation's (FPUC) weekly unemployment compensation boost is now being paid to eligible individuals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. FPUC is authorized under the CARES Act and provides an additional \$600 weekly payment to certain eligible individuals who are receiving other benefits.

Please note this daily update may not encompass all public guidance documents on implementation; as such, we encourage you to review public agency websites. Please let us know of any questions.